tion. They desire to be informed of which condition the doctors will deprive them. The "Mistakes of Moses" are of less direct interest to the people than the mistakes of medicine, which are matters of life and

death—particularly the latter.

Usage seems to require that the valedictorian shall devote a portion of the time to considering some question of popular interest as well as to bid farewell to the class. It shall be my task to speak in plain language of a custom which is fast becoming common which is producing disease and it may be even threatening physical degeneracy to the nation. I allude to the habit of taking opium and its preparations for other than strictly medical purposes. In order to avoid unnecessary repetition, I here lay claim to originality in the coinage of the words, opiophagy, to express the practice of habitually consuming opium, and opiophagist, to designate the person addicted to the so-called "opium habit."

In the limited time allotted to me it would

In the limited time allotted to me it would be folly to attempt an exhaustive disserta-tion upon a subject of such vastimportance, and I shall confine my remarks to some of its general features and to its dimensions and growth in our city. The causes, the pe-culiar changes wrought within the body, and

the cure, must necessarily be hastily mentioned, if even they are considered at all.

I have collected from the different city druggists estimates of the amount of crude opium, laudanum, paregoric, morphia and other opiates sold by them from month to other opiates sold by them from month to month, on prescriptions, and to habitual consumers. To be sure, the figures are not exact; but they are probably as true as can be secured, unless the sale were regulated, as it should be, by a special law, requiring a registry of sales of poisons, to be kept open for inspection by the proper officials.

The opium eater does not frequent the large and better-patronized drug stores. The smaller and more obscure apothecary shops may dispense ten times as much as the more

may dispense ten times as much as the more pretentious establishments, and in order to accommodate the regular Saturday night trade, the proprietors prepare packages of the prized narcotic. In my remarks names will not be given under any circumstances, and no offense is meant. Nor do I wish to detract one iota from the credit to which opium is entitled. It may be blessed for the opium is entitled. It may be blessed for the good it has done and cursed for the misery it has wrought. It is at once divine and devilish in its attributes. "Blessed be the man who invented sleep," exclaimed Sancho Panza; the blessing and curse may equally belong to him who discovered the powers of opium. Opium has cured more and killed more people than any drug of the materia more people than any drug of the materia

To write of the opium habit without mentioning DeQuincey's confessions of an English opium eater would be almost like preaching Mohammedanism without speaking of Mohammed. True it is that DeQuincy was not the originator, nor yet the apostle, of the habit. It started in Persia, was carried by the Arabians to China, and oftenward found its way to Evrope.

and afterward found its way to Europe.
With matchless beauty of diction Dethat it may not only prove interesting but in-structive. He prides himself not a little on having "untwisted almost to its final links the accursed chain which fettered him,"

ulant and tonic effects. The Mussulman's religious creed forbids indulgence in wine, and reserves its exhilarating influence for paradise; but the "mash-allah" and haschish afford physical solace to the devout follower

of the Koran.

According to estimate by some authors there are about two hundred and four thousand opiophagists in the United States; but

EFFECTS OF THE HABIT. the number is, I think, too low. In proper tion to the population more persons are addicted to this vice in cities than in country places; and, unless our city is a favorite place of residence for opiophagists (which we have no reason to presume) there are certainly more in the United States than the

poppies yield but a small per centage of morphia, which is the most active as well as highest prized alkaloid. The Turkish product is three times more powerful than the duct is three times more powerful than the allections for which are another is taken. Indian. For more than one hundred years have the Chinese been endeavaring to rid vice, who, after fifty years indulgence, atthemselves of this Old-Man-of-the Sea, but so far in vain. Opium-eaters contribute and four years. Nor does it seem necessations and four years. so far in vain. Opium-eaters contribute and four years. Nor does it seem necessa-about twenty five millions of dollars to England's annual revenue, and the ships of her subjects must be allowed to convey the deadly drug to mercenary dealers, or Great Britain must go to war with a peaceable

AS A MEANS OF SUICIDE.

The Chinese government perceives with alarm the dangerous increase of the habit, to which is attributed the fact that the annual rate of increase of population has declined from three per cent. to less than one half of one per cent. Numerous edicts have been promulgated by the emperors forbidding the use of opium; and in 1877 the last one was issued, which is more sweeping in its denunciations, proclaiming the death penalty for its violation. All of the imperial officers have been ordered to resort to the Quincey apologizes for obtruding upon the reading public the record of his unfortunate habit, and excuses himself in the hope officers have been ordered to resort to the severest measures to suppress and abolish the sale and use of opium, both by eating and smoking. The law is to go into effect in 1880, and, after the present year, the culture of the poppy is prohibited. Bribery and traitorous officials have heretoforesucceeded in preventing the execution of the laws but the sale and use of opium, both by esting any die from taking four the sale and use of opium, both by esting any die from taking four the secursed chain which fetered him," meaning thereby that he had almost earner to the popy is prohibited. Biftery and the secursed chain which fetered him," meaning thereby that he had almost earner to prove the form of the popy is prohibited. Biftery and the secursed chain which fetered him," meaning thereby that he had almost earner to form the popy is prohibited. Biftery and traitorous officials have herefoforesucceeded only possible, but very probable, that be-popy is prohibited. Biftery and traitorous officials have herefoforesucceeded the convergence only the primary of population of the free equation of the laws, but this one is to be strictly enforced with eer-dainy equality; as included by any direct to the popy is prohibited. Bifter the popy i

## THE INDIANAPOLIS SATURDAY HERALD.

CUIPES.

STARTLING STATISTICS OF THE INCREASE OF IMPORTATION.

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Extent of the Habit in Indianapolis.

Extent of the Habit in Indian

been assigned the duty of bount in the control of t pounds of opium and raising the total amount to 338,380 pounds. In 1877 there were imported 449,640 pounds of opium. The largely increased importation of "smoking opium" argues either a large augmentation of Chinese immigration or also it.

beneficial than otherwise. The Chinese por-ters, who indulge moderately, and thus ob-tain only the tonic and stimulating effects, number above mentioned.

Enough is known of the indulgence in this dure fatigue in a truly wonderful manner-Enough is known of the indulgence in this dure fatigue in a truly wonderful manner habit by the Chinese to show that it has become a national fault in the celestial empire, where, in 1876, eight millions of pounds were, it is said, consumed by six millions of people. But the amount in pounds and number of consumers is certainly less than truth demands; for India sent seven millions of pounds into China during that year, and the Chinese crop could not have been less than it was in 1869, when it amounted

Opium eaters attain a green, or, rather, yellow old age, if they do not die of the painful affections for which the anodyne is taken.

Probably three-fourths of all the suicides EFFORTS TO STAMP OUT THE HABIT IN in this country are committed with opium or some of its active principles, the best eleven of the cases the end was accomplished

with the aid of the dread narcotic.

The lethal or deadly dose varies considerably; one adult may die from taking four grains (one grain being an average dose,) while another individual may take one hun-dred grains and experience only the primary

THE DEADLY DRUG,

sale, and especially to one whose imaginative faculties were so remarkably developed and cultivated. Pain is not easily borne by the faculties were so remarkably developed and cultivated. Pain is not easily borne by the faculties were so remarkably developed and cultivated. Pain is not easily borne by the faculties were so remarkably developed and cultivated. Pain is not easily borne by the faculties were so remarkably developed and cultivated. Pain is not easily borne by the faculties of the

The habit is essentially one of secrecy—its not a social vice. There is no clinking of classes, no hob-nobbing with neighbors and riends. Each is a law unto himself—his pleasures are his own, and within bimself. He does not, and can not, communicate his pleasurable sensations to a fe low-debauchee, pleasurable sensations to a le low-debauchee, in the early part of his bondage, nor, if all be true that has been written, can he convey an adequate idea of the terment which attends the latter part of his playery.

THE EXTENT OF THE THE IN INDIANA-In our own midst the babit has assumed alarming and constantly increasing proportions. All professions and trades, every grade of intellectuality, contribute devotees. Race, age, sex, nationality, religion and condition in life, furnish factors to its formation. My information is ferived of others, as well as from my own observations which tion. My information is lerived of others, as well as from my own observations, which have occupied occasional moments during the past three years. According to the figures returned by the druggists of this city who were requested by me to furnish statistics, there are used in Indianapolis about seventy-five pounds each month, or nine handred nounds per year by nearly five seventy-five pounds each month, or nine hundred pounds per year by nearly five hundred opium eaters. This amount includes all the preparations, but excludes morphia and patent medicines containing opiates. I am assured by several prominent druggists that I have placed the figures too low, but others, having no means of judging excepting by their own sales, consider them excessive. One dealer, who certainly has not the largest trade in the city, sells an average of eight pounds of the crude drug permonth, and nine-tenths this amount to habitual consumers. Some of the dealers wildly estimate the number of opiophagists from two hundred to one thousand.

Different gradations of the habit, of course, exist. An aristocracy of the eappears to in-

exist. An aristocracy of the appears to induce some (lawyers, doctors, clergymen, ladies, merchants and women of the town,) to prefer the salts of morphia and these aristo-

tended with the most lamentable results. I have seen patients as spotted as leopards from the numerous punctures made in administering the anodyne. I am informed of and others.

EFFECTS OF THE HABIT.

Moderate consumption of the gum does not indeed seem to be necessarily deleterious to health. In fact, to a certain extent, it seems to be attended with results rather perfectly the profession of the results rather the necessarily deleterious as passed a longer period than four hours without a hypodermic injection of morphia, and seems to be attended with results rather the necessarily deleterious to health. In fact, to a certain extent, it seems to be attended with results rather than the necessarily deleterious and the numerous punctures made in administering the anodyne. I am informed of one person, who, for the relief of a painful seems to be attended with results rather than the numerous punctures made in administering the anodyne. I am informed of one person, who, for the relief of a painful seems to be attended with results rather than the numerous punctures made in administering the anodyne. I am informed of one person, who, for the relief of a painful seems to be attended with results rather than the numerous punctures made in administering the anodyne. I am informed of one person, who, for the relief of a painful seems to be attended with results rather than the numerous punctures made in administering the anodyne. I am informed of one person, who, for the relief of a painful seems to be attended with results rather than the numerous punctures made in administering the anodyne. head to foot, wherever a puncture can be

About twelve gallons of laudanum and six gallons of paregoric are consumed each month. Individuals taking excessive doses are not few. One professional man has been known to swallow four ounces of laudanum, and repeat the dose in one hour. This was his daily ration, taken every mornpeople. But the amount in pounds and number of consumers is certainly less than truth demands; for India sent seven millions of pounds into China during that year, and the Chinese crop could not have been less than it was in 1869, when it amounted to over five millions of pounds. China imports at least nine tenths of all the opium raised in India, but, in addition, Turkey furnishes her with a considerable quantity. Not a pound is exported from China. In 1871 the export from Smyrna, which is the chief point of shipment in Asia Minor, was valued at \$3,922,500, while that of British India for the same year amounted to \$656,140. The annual crop of opium raised throughout the whole world is estimated at about twenty millions of pounds.

The Chinese not only eat the "foreign poison," as they call it, but smoke it as well, and thus obtain its exhilarating and tranquillzing effects. They prepare opium form of a dove; the poison flows into their is afterward dried. Water does not extract, which is sterngth is not obtained; and besides, it is a notable fact that the China and East Indian poppies yield but a small per centage of morphia, which is the most active swell as morphia, which is the morphia pleasures that art is a certain extent the secretions are lessened—in fact, a brake seems to be applied to the wheels of life, whereby they are rendered slower in save that of the skin are elessened—in fact, a brake seems to be applied to the wheels of life, whereby they are rendered slower in save that of the skin are elessened—in fact, a brake seems to be applied to the wheels of life, whereby they are rendered slower in sit provise, the popple special in fact, a life, whereby they are rendered slower in the set calmmy; with alcoholic stimulants; and it seems to a tertain extent the rule, that the use of the from of dissipation, especially if laudanum be taken. One victim consumes during each twenty-four hours thirty grains of opium, and the exception of the same provise. The fine play of light and the provise and the provi ing, as long as his money and credit lasted. Finally he took an extraordinary (to him) quantity and was lulled into fatal slumber. Another citizen varies the morphia pleasures with an occasional chloroform spree. Others but few save abandoned women contract it before the twenty-fifth year; and from this time to the age of forty-five seems to be the opium epoch. To the painful neuralgic affections which occur during these years (due to the loss of teeth and consequent indigestion) may, I think, be attributed a large number of the cases. Besides, this is the most active portion of life, when painful diseases and accidents occur. As a remedy for pain, without abolishing consciousness, opium is unrivalled, and the physician's prescription unrivalled, and the physician's prescription is too frequently the starting point of inexorable habit—the patient making use of it, or a counterfeit, long after the occasion for its employment has ceased to exist. I deny the charge that physicians are responsible for the formation of the habit in the majori-

ty, or even in a respectable minority, of the OPIUM AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR ALCOHOL. The old question whether or not opium is used as a substitute for alcohol has been revived in Virginia after the introduction of the Moffet bell-punch; and it is claimed that the sale of opium has been greatly enhanced since the new law went into operation. This question is too weighty to be answered through prejudice for or against either side; and sufficient data have not yet been educed to warrant a positive opinion. Of our own citizens some of English birth indulge in

motives. An old saw says: "The best doctors are Dr. Diet, Dr. Quiet and Dr. Merryman." Wesley attributed his recovery to "sulphur and supplication." but perhaps overlooked the effect of, good Methodist diet and cheerfulness, for which he was noted.

Do not be eccentric. Only those who are very talented can afford the luxury of eccentricity. Make yourselves so agreeable that people will consider it a pleasure to be your patients. Be dignified without austerity; be courteous without subservience!

ignified without austerity; be courteous without ubservience!

Let God's poor be your poor! To be a physian pays in other than a pecuniary sense. The ick and dying are everywhere, and appeal to you or assistance which you can not refuse to render. They ask you not merely for money, food and lothing, but for health and happiness, for life iself—boons not to be purchased by their gold, ut by your talent and industry. The proud conciousness of having restored sight to the blind nd hearing to the deaf; to know that you have nade the lame to leap for joy; the low-spoken but eart-felt "God bless you" of one rescued from artial death, is worth years of toil and decades fatudy.

And there are physicians (though fortunately they are but few) whose heads should govern their hearts, who lend the authority of professional sanction to a practice which must eventually blight the young life, even if it does not prove a fatal lullaby.

sacept seems, when they have discovered the mactic power of soothing syrth, presponding mactic power of soothing syrth, presponding and the sing to the deaf to know that you have made to be the soot of the state o

The code of ethics certainly requires you to be gentlemen—to follow the precepts of the golden rule. Doubtless it does seem severe in some of its restrictors, but it has good as well as bad features, and is most railed at by those who least understand it. The code teaches you to be kind and considerate to your patients; to regulate your wisits as they are required, and avoid neglect; that you must give your patient timely notice of approaching dauger; that there is a professional freemasonry understood between patient and physician that warrants the most implicit confidence, and demands the most profesund secrecy; that you must treat a brother practitioner respectfully (if he allows you to;) and that you must tell the truth. If you would not do these things you should not entangle yourself with the code.

The duties of the patient to the physician are prescribed by the code; but, unfortunately, the patient to frequently follows the bent of his own inclination—he "kicks out of the traces," and utterly ignores the medical scriptures. In these cases you are to treat symptoms as they arise."

There is also an unwritten code, which, even if the unpublished, is better understood than the written law. It covers all the points untouched by the latter, and its violation is more foreign to the ragged edge of dissolution, when you have not a single person under your arm, and an expression of intense anxiety upon your face, as if you had a score or more of patients hanging on the ragged edge of dissolution, when you have not a single person under your treatment; you are not to drive a two provided the should be apent in study is not to be devoted to whittling store-boxes and arguing politics with village loafers; your patients are not to be encouraged in reading pseudo-medical works, from which they will absorb only enough of knowledge to complete their education as fools, if you have a medical friend who contemplates publishing a work on domestic medicine, "shoot him of the physicians. And Asa Study will be abundantly con

n angel's; and a god's the cure half-wrought. It when, the cure complete, he seeks his fee, the devil looks then less terrible than he."